(b) whether it is a fact that Government have granted ex-gratia only to families of such retired persons who died;

(c) if so, the reasons for not extending the benefit to living CPF retirees;

(d) the number of CPF retirees who are still alive; and

(e) whether Government propose to reconsider the case of living CPF retirees in view of their dwindling number and their pitiable plight by granting them ex-gratia amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ex-gratia pension of Rs. 150/- per mensem has been granted to the families of those retirees who retired on CPF prior to 1-1-86 and died;

(c) The Pay Commission had recommended ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- p.m. only to those who retired with pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m. and an option to those who retired with a pay exceeding Rs. 500/- to come over to pension scheme. Since the CPF retirees had been given repeated options while in service and ex-gratia payment to only those getting a pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m. would be discriminatory and any decision to pay ex-gratia would have reprecussions elsewhere, the Government did not accept the recommendations of the Pay Commission to extend the benefit to living CPF retirees. However, ex-gratia payment to families of deceased CPF retirees was extended on sympathetic grounds.

(d) The living CPF and SRPF retirees were estimated in 1988 to be about 1.20 lakhs.

(e) Representations to reconsider the decision are under examination.

Telecasting of TV Documentary— "Democracy and Money Power"

717. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Media Workshop, New Delhi had produced a TV Documentary titled "DEMOCRACY AND MONEY POWER" with financial assistance from Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that necessary editing etc. were made by the producer of the said Documentary as suggested by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons for holding up the film and for not allowing it to be telecast;

(d) whether Government are taking steps for its early telecast; and

(e) if so, the date of its telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) The programme on the misuse of Money and Power during elections, commissioned by Doordarshan was held back by Doordarshan as its telecast at that time would have infringed the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. Its telecast would depend on the programme requirements of Doordarshan.

Low Power TV Transmitter at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

718. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to establish a Low Power (100 Watts) TV Transmitter at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, under Doordarshan's Annual Plan for 1990-91; and

(b) if so, what are the steps Government have taken to implement the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary Project Note for establishment of the transmitter has been prepared and necessary action for procurement of transmitter equipment has been initiated.

Proposal for TV serials based on Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore's Short Stories

719. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received an appeal dated 23rd January, 1991 from Shri Saroj De, Director and Producer, Doordarshan Calcutta proposing sponsored serials based on 16 different short stories of Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore on the occasion of Fifieth Death Anniversary of the great poet, over Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision on the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) letter dated 28-1-1991 was received from the Honourable Member himself regarding approval of Shri Saroj De's proposal for a sponsored serial based on Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore's short stories. However, Shri Saroj De's letter dated 23-1-1991 does not seem to have been received in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting or in Doordarshan.

During the period from May 7, 1986 to September 30, 1990 Doordarshan had not been accepting new proposals for sponsored TV serials. Fresh proposals for sponsored programmes were invited in October, 1990 under a revised sponsorship scheme. A large number of proposals on various themes/subjects have been received which are being processed by Doordarshan at present. Acceptance of the proposals would depend upon their overall suitability and Doordarshan's programme requirements over a period of time.

Flavoured salt

720. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a News Report which appeared in the NAGPUR TIMES, published from Nagpur, dated 26-1-1991 under the caption 'FLAVOURED SALT IN MARKET SOON';

(b) whether by allowing such project Government are encouraging hike in price of common salt to benefit the industrialists placing heavy burden on poor masses of the country;

(c) whether Government are having any policy to put as fortification of salt to sever scientific tests before allowing industries to manufacture and market fortified salt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government has not permitted manufacture of any type of fortified salt other than iodised salt in the country.

Fencing along Indo-Burma borders to curb terrorist activities

721. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Burma (Mynammer) border to curb terrorist activities of NSCN, P.L.A. and U.L.F.A.; and